Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MOGADI 00359 271146Z
ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SY-05 MCT-01 IO-13 CIAE-00 DODE-00
PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15
NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 CA-01 ACDA-12 OC-06
CCO-00 FBOE-00 A-01 EUR-12 OPR-02 NEA-10 SCS-06
/117 W
----------049769 271153Z /21/14
O R 251305Z FEB 78
FM AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5873
INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOGADISCIO 359

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (MRN 359 VICE 3599)

EO 11652: GDS-1

TAGS: PINT, ASEC, SO, US

SUBJECT: POSSIBLE CONCERTED ANTI-AMERICAN CAMPAIGN

1. EMBASSY HAS NOTED INCIDENTS IN THE PAST FEW DAYS WHICH MAY PRESAGE A CONCERTED ANTI-AMERICAN CAMPAIGN AS THE GSDR CASTS ABOUT FOR A SCAPEGOAT TO CARRY THE BLAME FOR A DEFEAT IN THE OGADEN WAR. THE ACTING MINISTER OF INFORMATION'S REMARKS LAST NIGHT WERE THE MOST BLANTANT MANIFESTATION OF ANTI-AMERICANISM HEARD IN THIS CAPTIAL SINCE THE BREAK WITH THE SOVIETS. RADIO MOGADISCIO PICKED UP THE THEME TODAY WITH THE AFTERNOON BROADCAST CHARFGING THAT THE UNITED STATES AND THE SOVIETS MADE A DEAL TO CARVE UP THE HORN. THE STATION ALSO ASSERTED THAT PRESIDENT CARTER APPROVED CHAIRMAN MENGISTU'S DEMAND TO LIFT THE ARMS EMBARGO TO ETHIOPIA, AN AGREEMENT ALLEGEDLY REACHED WHEN PRESIDENTIAL ENVOY AARON VISITED ETHIOPIA.

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PAGE 02 MOGADI 00359 271146Z

2. USIS LOCAL EMPLOYEES WHO HAVE BEEN CONDUCTING SOME OF THE ROUTINE LIAISON WITH THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION FOUND THEIR RECEPTION FRIGID TODAY. THE CAR BEARING THE COURIER WAS JEERED WHEN IT ENTERED THE MINISTRY'S COMPOUND, AND THE COURIER TAUNTED BY SPECTATORS WITH REFERENCES TO "CARTER'S TWO-FACED POLICY" IN DEALING WITH THE ACTING DIRECTOR OF SONNA, OUR LOCAL EMPLOYEE WAS ADVISED IT WOULD BE WELL INFORM HIS EMPLOYERS TO STAY AT HOME

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DURING THE MAJOR DEMONSTRATIONS PLANNED FOR THIS WEEK, AND TO CLOSE THE USIS LIBRARY THIS AFTERNOON. THE LEVEL OF CORDIALITY AT THE MINISTRY WHICH HAD BEEN THE NORM OVER THE PAST MONTHS WAS DECIDEDLY COOLER.

3. EMBASSY OFFICERS NOTED YESTERDAY FOR THE FIRST TIME SINCE LAST JULY THE POSTING OF FIXED SURVEILLANTS IN THE VICINITY OF THE CHANCERY. THERE HAS BEEN NO INDICATION OF ANY VEHICLE OR RESIDENCE SURVEILLANCE. UNIFORMED POLICE WERE STATIONED AT THE CHANCERY THIS AFTERNOON, FEB 25. A CONTINGENT WAS ALSO SEEN AT THE FRENCH EMBASSY. (THIS IS OBVIOUSLY A PRECAUTION FOR THE LABOR DEMONSTRATION ANTICIPATED THIS AFTERNOON.)

4. THE AMBASSADOR'S SECRETARY'S CAR WAS STONED IN THHE MARKET TWO DAYS AGO, WITH PERHAPS A DOZEN MISSILES HURLED BY WHAT APPEARED TO BE ADOLESCENTS. THIS COULD HAVE BEEN A SOMALI PRANK SINCE HURLING STONES AMOUNTS TO ALMOST A NATIONAL PASTTIME. ON THE OTHER HAND, NO EMBASSY VEHICLES HAVE BEEN THE TARGET FOR SUCH AN ATTACK WITHIN RECENT MEMORY.

5. THE EMBASSY BELIEVES IT IS IMPORTANT TO KEEP THESE EVENTS IN PERSPECTIVE. NO ONE HAS BEEN HURT, NOR DO WE BELIVE THERE IS ANY DANGER TO PERSONNEL OR PREMISES AT THIS TIME. THE SITUATION, HOWEVER, COULD CONCEIVEABLY BECOME TENSE, ESPECIALLY IF THERE ARE PRESSURES FROM THE LEADERSHIP IN WHAT MAY BECOME A CONCERTED CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 03 MOGADI 00359 271146Z

CAMPAIGN. EMBASSY HAS TAKEN NORMAL SECURITY PRECAUTIONS, INCREASED VIGILANCE OF THE MARINE WATCH FORCE, AND ADVISED PERSONNEL TO BE ALERT.

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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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